

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



April 2013



Hurry up or you will
be late for today's 30
WPM code practice

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

PROGRAM:

This month's talk will be Ben, N6MUF: 9M4SLL Spratly Island

MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER

AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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A Word from the Prez . . .

John Barcroft, K6AM



The Visalia convention should be wrapping up as you get this. Hope you all had a great time. Lotsa fun and interesting stuff again as always. I'm curious to see how you all liked the new venue at the Convention Center. In response to all the concerns about the rising costs of DX'peditions, we voted to double our contribution to the NCDXF this year to \$1000. I presented our check to them personally at Visalia.

The bands have been pretty poor lately, but there are still a few opportunities to work a new one here and there. The ZK3 and 5W0 boys have been a fun diversion, but most of us didn't really need them. Let's hope things pick up in time for the WPX contest in May.

Elections are coming up in June. Your nominating committee is putting together a slate of candidates. We will also take nominations from the floor at the May meeting.

Finally, as most of you know by now, Rick, N6ND lost his fight with cancer earlier this month. It all came about rather suddenly and was quite a shock. Rick had been a member longer than almost everyone, and built a very large group of friends locally and around the world. It was gratifying to see such a large turnout at his memorial. For me, I will fondly remember that Rick would always stop by and give me a point in the contests, and then move to all the other bands for a quick clean sweep.

We will publish a tribute in the May issue and dedicate a page on the web site to re-counting his life and accomplishments.

73, John, K6AM

Treasurers Report

Ellen, N6UWW



President John, K6AM, opened the March meeting by welcoming 49 people, including some new faces: Peter KJ6VCM, Miguel KJ6YXI, Steve W6SMK, Larry (no call).

Glenn K6NA reported that Rick N6ND was in the hospital suffering from multiple myeloma & pneumonia and was in a coma. (Rick became a silent Key on April 7th).

Top Ten 30m was announced followed by the Top Ten 15m.

An application for membership from Bill W6RGS was voted on and approved.

A roundtable discussion ensued. The group voted to donate \$1000 to Northern California DX Foundation. John will personally present the check to them at Visalia.

Treasurer's Report

81 members

Statement Balance 3/29/2013 \$7402.14

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Ron, N0RR

Thanks to everyone that provided input for this month's bulletin; Gayle K6GO, Rick K0XB/6, Wayne NN6R, Glenn K6NA, Ben N6MUF, Pat WA6MHZ, Jim W6YA and Jim W6YI. I have a little material for the May issue, but nothing for June and beyond, so please continue to submit content, particularly those personal stories, articles and photos. I hope someone can submit a report on this year's IDXC in Visalia.

The rapid decline of Rick's health and his passing was a surprise that made this month a sad time for the club, as well as the DX community. Rick was our friend, a long time club member and an extraordinary DXer. We will miss him. Next month's bulletin will have a tribute to Rick's super station in Ramona and his accomplishments in amateur radio DXing.

Around the middle of the month, we enjoyed a moderately high solar flux of 150 and a low K index, which created high expectations for great long-haul propagation on 10m. We were able to hear and work VK9CZ, but the over-the-pole openings never materialized as hoped. (I guess the electron density did not get the memo.) This just confirms the fact that there are mechanisms affecting the MUF that cannot be predicted by solar flux and the A and K indices alone. I just hope the theoretical physicists figure it out for Cycle 26.

This month's program will feature Ben, N6MUF, who participated in the recent 9M4SLL DXpedition to Spratly Islands. Many months of planning and waiting for permission were necessary for a group of 8 operators to go to Layang Layang, Spratly Island in March 2013. Ben, a member of the SDDXC, was one of these operators and will share his story of this DXpedition. Come and enjoy the presentation on April 24th.

There is a video link to the 7O6T expedition embedded in the April SCDXC Bulletin now on line at:

http://www.scdxc.org/docs/newslist/newsletter_20130400.pdf

Enough of my ramblings, read on and enjoy the stories and pictures from and about our members.

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 30 METERS TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 15 METERS

4/13	4/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG	4/13	4/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	331	-	1.	1.	N6ND	40	311	324	347	+2
2.	2.	K6AM	40	319	325	327	-2	2.	2.	K6AM	40	330	339	343	-
3.	3.	N6ND	40	266	268	327	+1	3.	3.	N6CW	40	?	331	338	-
4.	4.	N7CW	40	266	266	300	-	4.	5.	W6YI	40	312	320	332	+12
5.	5.	N6CW	37	?	215	272	-	5.	4.	N7CW	40	304	304	322	-
6.	6.	K6XT	39	258	262	262	+1	6.	7.	K0XB	40	303	320	321	+5
7.	8.	W6YI	38	185	187	262	+29	7.	6.	W6YOO	40	313	318	318	-
8.	7.	K6ZH	36	223	227	256	-	8.	8.	K6ZH	40	284	289	305	-
9.	9.	K0XB	40	231	233	243	+18	9.	9.	K6XT	40	289	300	300	+9
10.	10.	W6YOO	33	225	227	227	+5	10.	-	NN6K	37	266	270	280	NEW

Quite a few of you sent a report this year with some nice gains across the board with Jim, W6YI having the biggest gains. The leaders remain in place but most everyone showed some nice gains. 15 meters has sprung back to life with some good openings worldwide. It only gets better, folks. Remember to update your records to show MV Island as a deleted country, and get those updates in so we can be as accurate as possible.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, the other WARC bands, 160 and RTTY. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

2012 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW CONTEST SDDXC RESULTS

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
MS - HP	W6YI (+ N6AN, N6KI, N6MJ, K6AM)	222,108	1,338	83	#1 US/VE (FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR)
MS - LP	NX6T (ops N6KI, WB6NBU, K4RB, N7VM)	144,320	880	82	#1 SW DIV #3 US/VE
SO - HP	K6NA	102,090	615	83	#5 SW DIV
SO - HP	N5ZO	8,372	91	46	#14 SW DIV
SO - LP	WN6K	133,002	821	81	#2 SW DIV
SO - LP	K6ZH	99,268	598	83	#5 SW DIV
SO - U	N6NC	64,780	410	79	#8 SW DIV

From Wayne, NN6R

As I mentioned at a recent club meeting, I just got into RTTY for the first time ever due to getting a new rig. I was on 17 meters this morning trying to work a few Europeans barefoot. The band seemed poor but I finally snagged a station in Scotland. When I finished with him my screen was showing that T6T was calling me. I was so stunned that I thought I was reading it wrong. He then called again and I gathered my wits and went on to have a qso with him. I was copying him at about an 85% read. I've worked T6 before but at just above the noise levels. This contact blew me away. DX IS.

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

SPECIAL MEMORIAL EDITION FOR N6ND

Rick has always been a leader in our Top Ten lists in all categories. In this special edition of the Top 10, we give you the lifetime DX totals for N6ND on each band as they will be remembered by all who thought they could ever match his accomplishments..

	C-D	CFM	WKD	ZONES
MIX	340	358	358	40
PHO	331	348	357	40
CW	334	345	350	40
RTTY	230	233	295	40
160	168	169	213	35
80	249	254	301	40
40	303	311	343	40
30	266	268	327	40
20	329	343	354	40
17	270	273	330	40
15	311	324	347	40
12	258	260	318	40
10	280	287	332	40
6	13	13	38	17
2	1	1	3	5

BAND-COUNTRIES 2448 2503 2906 377

Rick's Advice to New Hams

“My advice for new guys starting the DX quest is have patience, it is a marathon event and you have to out-wait all the crummy dictators that won't allow ham radio in their backwater country and all the crummy bureaucrats that won't give people permission to land on some dip-water island. In addition, some places are just plain hard to get to even after you get permission. So although you need some of the same equipment to rise to the top of the Honor Roll as you need for a DX Contest, you have to have the opposite mentality. Just out live the bastards!”

How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's, (Bernie) newsletter.

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
4K6FO	15 CW	5-Apr	1416	K6NA	VK9CZ	17cw	5-Apr	1549	W6YI
5B4AHK	12-SSB	9-Apr	1917	K6NA	VK9CZ	10CW	7-Apr	0414	N0RR
5W0M	80CW	11-Apr	1242	N0RR	VK9CZ	80cw	10-Apr	1330	W6YI
5W0M	80CW	11-Apr	1242	N0RR	VK9LT	40CW	10-Apr	1147	N0RR
9M2AX	160cw	29-Mar	1139	W6YI	XR0YG	80cw	27-Mar	1219	W6YI
9M2SD	10CW	13-Apr	0025	N0RR	XV1X	10cw	10-Apr	0127	W6YI
9Q6AL	10CW	13-Apr	1911	N0RR	YI1RZ	15cw	5-Apr	1552	W6YI
A3EAQ	10SSB	13-Apr	0051	N0RR	YI1RZ	15-CW	5-Apr	1558	K6NA
A52SV	15 CW	5-Apr	1428	K6NA	Z81Z	15cw	8-Jan	1611	W6YI
A61R	15-SSB	6-Apr	1436	K6NA	ZA1E	15cw	10-Apr	1458	W6YI
E51DXX	10SSB	8-Apr	0303	N0RR					
EK3RA	30cw	3-Apr	2339	W6YI					
EX8MLE	15 CW	5-Apr	1357	K6NA					
EX8MLE	15cw	5-Apr	1403	W6YI					
HS0ZGQ	10CW	13-Apr	0152	N0RR					
JT1CS	12-CW	13-Apr	0037	K6NA					
T6T	15 CW	5-Apr	1441	K6NA					
TA3AX	15 CW	5-Apr	1351	K6NA					
UK8AR	15 CW	5-Apr	1414	K6NA					
VK9CZ	80CW	5-Apr	1223	N0RR					

QSLs Received Recently—

Station	Via
9U4U	M0URX
V63ZM	M0URX
ZL9HR	EB7DX
Z60WW	OH2BH
E77DX	Direct
TT8TT	I2YSB



Pulau Layang Layang , Spratly Islands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After a lot of negotiation we are pleased to announce a multinational team of twelve is to undertake a Dxpedition to Bouvet Island from 25 March 2014 to 5 April 2014 using the callsign 3Y0IOF. We will be operating 24/7 with five stations covering all bands 160—10m.

We understand that Dxpeditions are all about you the DX operator, therefore we are pleased to announce some exciting new innovations.

We appreciate many of you feel you should not have to make any effort to work us. Accordingly, we are offering you the chance to call us on the telephone when you are ready for a QSO. That's right, we will give you a phone number and when you are ready you can ring us and we will immediately cease to work the pile up and call you on a frequency of your choice. Not only that, we will also ensure an email is sent to you directly after the QSO to confirm you are in the log. Furthermore, we are organising a team of experts who, if you wish, will fly in and set up your rig on the required frequency, connect the antenna for you and make sure the heating or ventilation is on so it is nice and warm or cool in your shack as the case requires. Don't worry about propagation. We will make sure there is some between us, as we understand that is our responsibility and it's our fault if there isn't.

We wish to acknowledge the value Frequency Cops bring to a Dxpedition so to recognise this we are going to specifically publicise some times when we will arrange for some operators to deliberately call us on our frequency instead of split. Frequency Cops can even register their availability with us to help us ensure these periods get maximum uptake by the Frequency Cop community. During these periods the Frequency Cops will be able to say or send "up up!" to their hearts content. (Note: we will make sure we tell the pile up to listen up and not down as the recent PT0S Dxpedition has taught us that Frequency Cops don't know how to send "down" in CW).

We also don't want the "tuner uppers" to feel left out and like them we feel dummy loads are completely overrated. So when we are ready to transmit on a band we will give them the opportunity to tune up on our frequency before we start working the pile up. Each period will start with us sending our callsign and "QDL" ("Quick Dummy Loaders") so they will know when to commence tuning up on us. We will allow for at least five minutes for this as we know how important it is for the tuner uppers to make sure their finals are good and ready. We acknowledge if they go bang, it's our fault. Depending on demand we will every now and then send "QDL" while working a pile up so any tuner uppers late to the party can tune up on us as well.

Unfortunately we will not have cluster access while we are on Bouvet but we know this will not stop you posting announcements and comments on the cluster about our Dxpedition. Some suggestions for you to try include saying what band you want us to QSY to or mode to operate on, the quality of our ops and the usual "loud", "can't hear them here", "thanks for 7th band" or "yee hah" comments. Likewise as we noted above, we understand it's our fault if you cannot work us and therefore we accept in that case you will post on the cluster calling us the worst Dxpedition ever.

We can't wait to be of service to you.

The 3Y0IOF Team

One and One-half Milk Carton Crates—Part 2

Rick Borken KØXB/6

Last month, I told you about the portable station I've been using during our winters here in San Diego. I use a simple vertical antenna in the back yard along with an IC-7000.

Now, the rest of the story - - How well does this work?

My goal was to have fun, and that's certainly been true. For each of the past four years, I have worked more than 100 countries in the three months we're in California. In total, I've worked 207 countries and all 40 zones so far, with 190 countries on CW, 136 on digital and 104 on phone.

Compared to operating with a tower, beam and amplifier, you learn to pay much more attention to band openings of course. If the bands are poor, I do something else. But if the bands are hot, I can sometimes break a pileup.

I'll be back in Minnesota in May. Give me a call when you hear KØXB.



Rick KØXB

Some ops actually put on 'battle gear' for big pile-ups



A preview of Ben's Spratly Presentation

In early fall of 2012 I was asked to join an seven man team to put the Island of Layang Layang, Spratly Group, IOTA AS-051 on the air. Everything depended on an "OK" from the authorities in Malaysia. John, 9M6XRO and Steve, 9M6DXX had received permission in the past for a 2 Op. DX-Pedition, so it was thought that permission would soon be forthcoming.

The team was spread out over the world and all Op.s wanted to make flight reservations ASAP but not before receiving the 'go ahead'. We waited and waited week for week but nothing came. All other plans were being made as to equipment, antennas, etc. We waited some more. Along the way one of the Ops. had to withdraw and the search went out for a replacement. Not only was a replacement found, but a duo-team that has been on their own DX-Peditions for many years.

Great, but can we get their personal info approved? Our own permission had not yet been granted and now we had to start the process of getting two more NEW operators approved. The team leaders did not want to 'bug' the authorities because the approval office had been changed to a new location and department. We just waited.

Authorization to travel to Layang Layang can only be made through a 'booking agent' who must receive authorization for all travelers to Layang Layang. The Island has a 'Diving Club' and is used almost 100% just for travelers wanting to dive. The Hotel is equipped with about 80 rooms, a restaurant, bar, pool and diving trip boats. Travel to Layang Layang can ONLY be made thru the booking agent. No ships etc. are allowed to travel to the island.

The island itself is about 4KM long and 150 Meters wide. Most of this is a runway for a twice weekly scheduled (from March 1 to Sept each year) flight with Malaysian Airlines from Kota Kinabalu to Layang Layang. Looking at the photo you see a landing strip, the hotel resort and about 2/3rds of the island is a Malaysian Navy Base. The Base is off limits as well as any part of the island used by the Malaysian Navy. There is nothing else to do on the island except diving. There is no beach, nowhere or anything to see or do.

Alas, we received permission to travel and all plans were 'GO'. The two new team members had to wait for their approval but we were assured it would be forthcoming. I had made plans to travel to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia 9 days before the trip to Layang Layang. Steve, DXX and John, XRO booked me into Seaside Travellers Inn just outside of Kota Kinabalu, directly on the sea. They also provided me with a THP amp. and antenna so I could be QRV as 9M6/N6MUF for one week. WOW, I have been to a few spots in the world which provided 'Pile-ups', but nothing like here.

On March 9th the whole team was assembled in Kota Kinabalu and we flew to Layang Layang. It is only a 50 minute trip. We had reserved a conference room with air conditioning and it didn't take us long to start putting up antennas and setting up the stations. Time flew and after 44,706 QSOs it was time to return to Kota Kinabalu.

I present a slide show on April 24th at the SDDXC April Meeting. I hope all can attend.

73's Ben N6MUF